2020

A REVIEW OF OUR STATISTICS AND MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# ANNUAL REPORT



Rockford Fire Department





# Mission Statement

The Mission of the Rockford Fire

Department is to protect the lives and

property of our community through fire,
emergency medical, and life safety services.

# Values

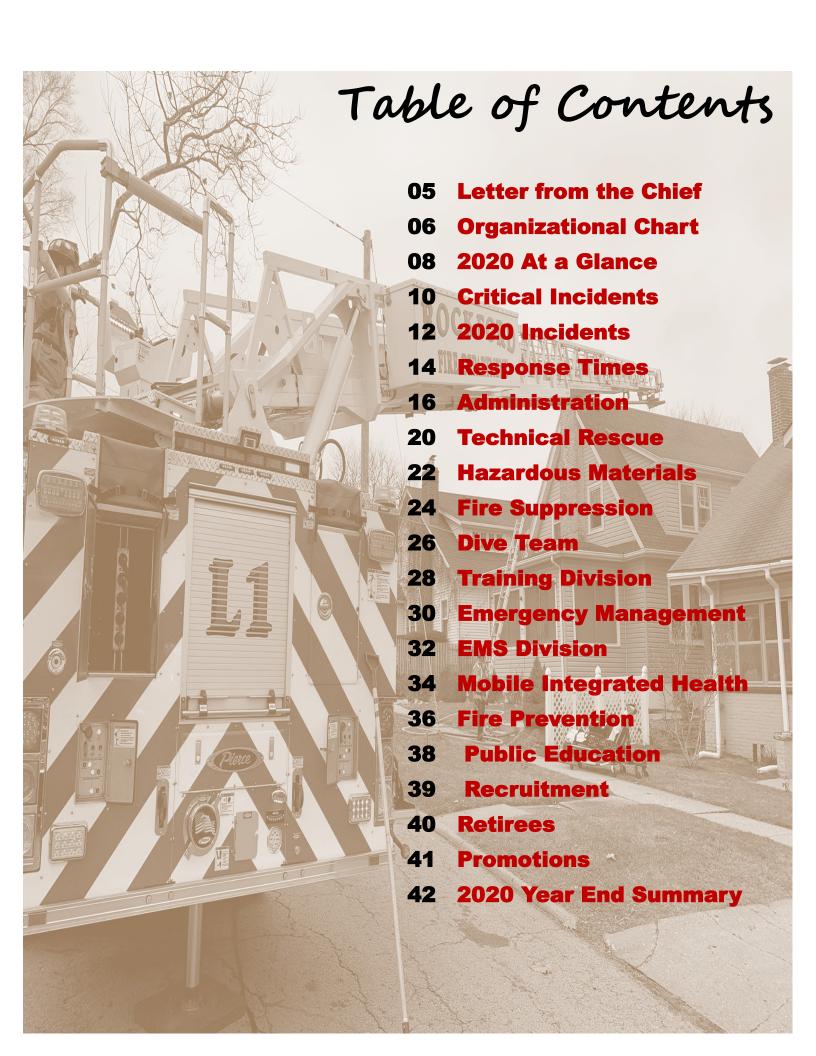
**Professionalism** 

Respect

Integrity

Dedication

**Empathy** 



# Letter From the Chief

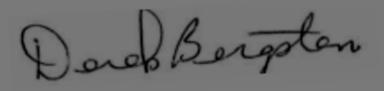
What a year 2020 has been! We started out strong and then quickly adapted and changed our focus to address the new threat of COVID-19. This global pandemic quickly reached Rockford with our first cases identified in March and we watched our personnel quickly adapt to what has become the new normal. Personal protective equipment has perhaps covered our smiles, but our personnel faced the new tasks, new hazards, and continued to serve our citizens with professionalism, respect, integrity, dedication, and empathy.

While 2020 posed many challenges, it also brought out the best in our community. It showed neighbors helping neighbors, sacrifices made for the great good of the community, and a continued push toward cooperation and coordination of all our emergency response partners. We saw businesses step forward and help us lead a coordinated community response effort unlike any other. Together we rose to meet the unknown and worked collaboratively to find the best solutions. We developed plans in the Emergency Operations Center that would serve as templates State-wide and our testing and vaccinations sites served

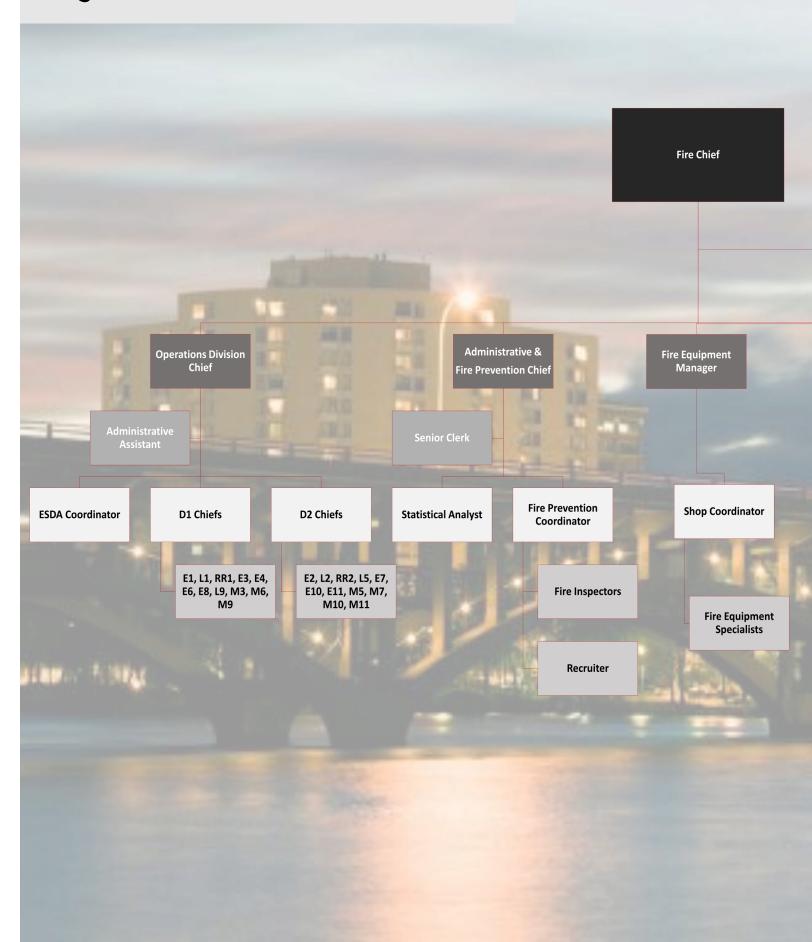


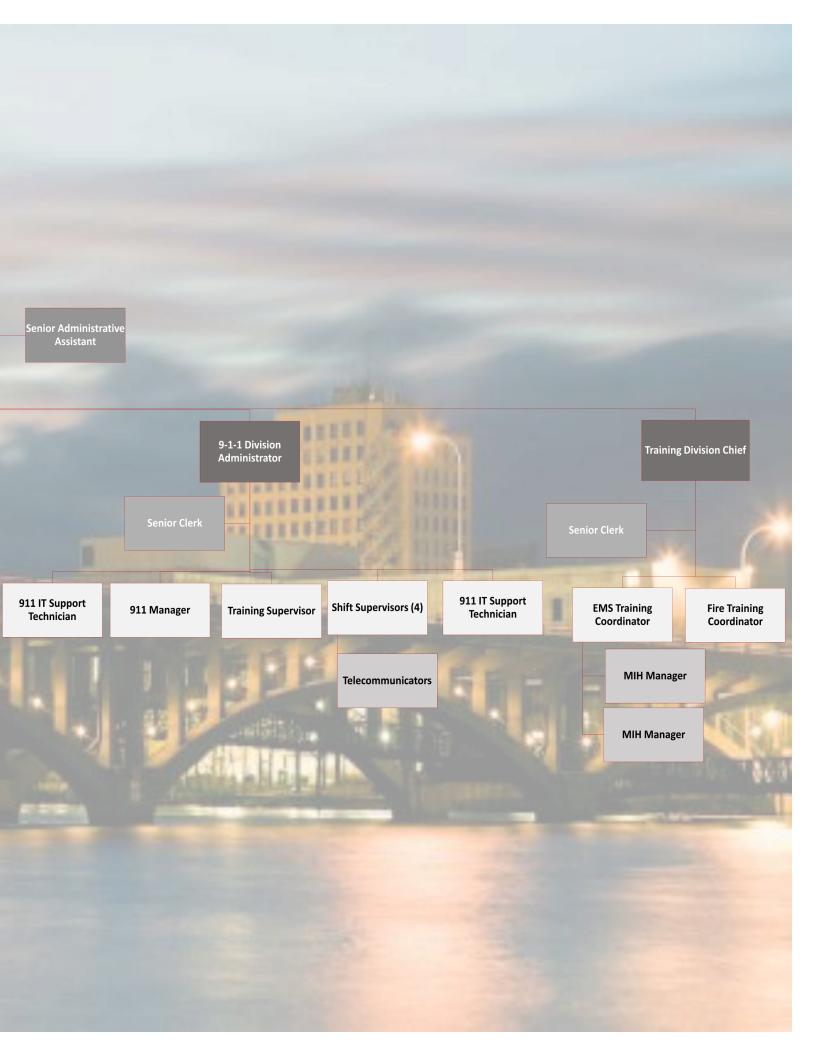
as models for the many others that would follow. Although COVID-19 was very hard on our community, our neighbors, and our families, the grief suffered by those who lost their loved ones is not forgotten.

As we look forward to 2021, there will be some personal changes for me as the Chief of the Rockford Fire Department. After 12 years serving at the helm of this dedicated department, I have decided to accept a new challenge in a new State. I am grateful to have had the chance to lead this incredibly talented team, and am confident that I am leaving it with the most capable hands. While the Fire and Police Commissioners have a difficult task in picking the next Chief of this department, I respect the process and believe that whomever the Commissioners select, they will find this community and department to be welcoming and supportive as they were to me when I first started as Chief in 2009. Leaving this great City was not an easy decision for me, but I believe I am leaving Rockford Fire perfectly positioned to continue to be one of the best departments in the State of Illinois. I am confident that my departure will not derail any of the gains our department has worked tirelessly to attain. These gains come in various areas and despite the economic challenges, we have been able to update our fleet of fire apparatus and ambulances to increase the safety of not just our firefighters but also our community. We have also collaborated with Swedish American Health System to launch the Mobile Integrated Health program that gives the most at-risk individuals in our community better access to health care. Our Department looks forward to new challenges, new-shared successes, and the collaborative effort that will be required to address them. While I look forward to a new professional challenge, I will miss my brothers and sisters on the department and the people in this City I have proudly called "home" my whole life.



# Organizational Chart





#### 2020 At a Glance

65.7
SQUARE MILES IN ROCKFORD



146,609

POPULATION OF CITY OF ROCKFORD

251
NUMBER OF FIRE
SERVICE MEMBERS



11

NUMBER OF ACTIVE
FIRE STATIONS

**534**FIRE CALLS

104,184 2020 CALLS TO 911



63,900 TRAINING HOURS

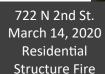


#### Critical Incidents



2nd Ave. January 16, 2020 Vacant Residential Structure Fire

Multiple Units responded to a single family structure fire. The house was a complete loss.





to a residential fire. Upon their arrival—two victims had succumbed to the fire.

March 2020
COVID-19 Impacts
Rockford Fire Department

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

February 9, 2020 Highcrest Rd Residential Structure Fire



Multiple units responded to fire and were able to save over half the property from Fire Damage.

No injuries were reported.

1000 N Church Street April 2, 2020 Multi Family Residential Structure Fire

Multiple units responded a multiramily residential fire.



Multiple Units responded to an Iconic Rockford Church.

Unfortunately the Church was a total loss. The cause of the fire was deemed intentional and an arrest followed soon after the fire was extinguished.

2500 N Main St. October 24, 2020 Commercial Structure Fire



Multiple Units responded to the structure fire in the early morning of October 24, 2020. This fire was one of the largest fires in Rockford this year with over \$360,000 in damages and a completely demolished large area of commercial and industrial buildings.

200 S Lyford Rd December 25, 2020 Forest City Tennis Club

Multiple crews responded to the Former Tennis Club. The building was vacant and an arrest was made. The fire took nearly 7 hours to extinguish.

JUL AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC



Multiple Units were dispatched to a Fire. Crews were able to extinguish fire— with minimal damage to other units in building. 1 person did not survive the fire.



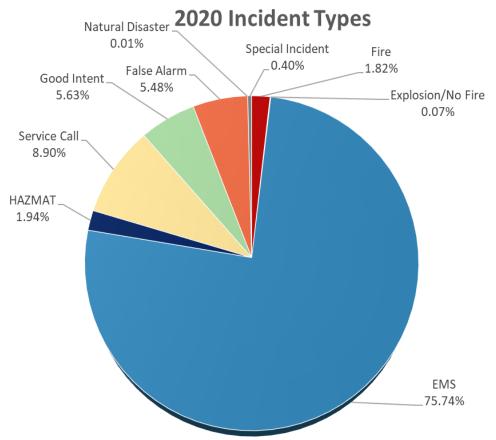
Multiple Units were dispatched to a Fire/ Explosion- Crews were able to extinguish the fire. Unfortunately the explosion leveled the home & damaged surrounding properties. One casualty was reported.



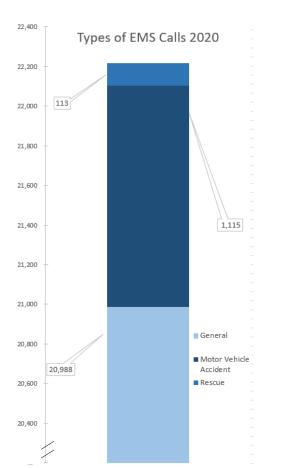
Multiple crews were called to a house fire with possible tenants still inside. The crews were able to rescue 2 children, the mother and their pet dog. All residents survived the fire and treated for their injuries.

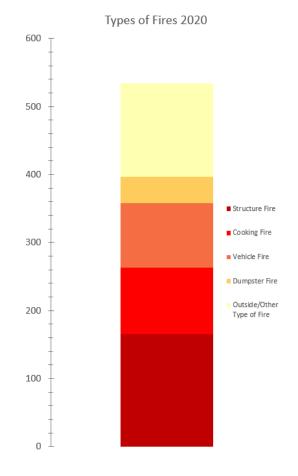
Residential Structure Fire

# Incident Types & Volume

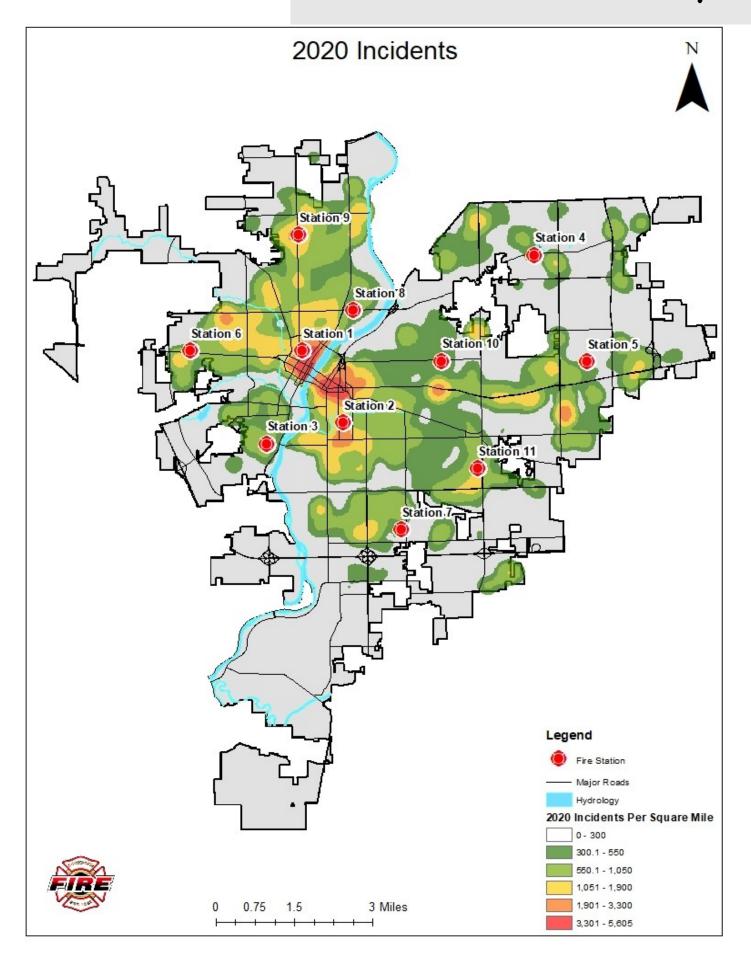


Incident Type	2020
100 - Fire	534
200 - Explosion/Over Rupture	21
300 - EMS	22,216
400 - HAZMAT	569
500 - Service Call	2,611
600 - Good Intent	1,652
700 - False Alarm	1,608
800 - Natural Disaster	2
900 - Special Incident	117
TOTAL	29,330





# 2020 Incident Map

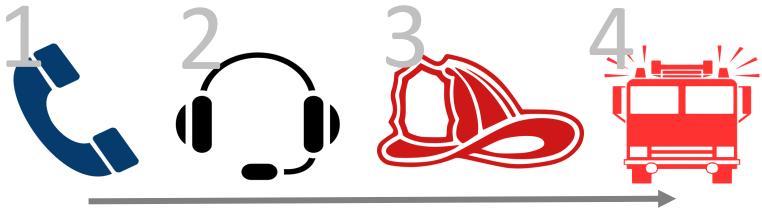


# Response Times

#### **BREAKING DOWN A 911 CALL**

Rockford Fire Department uses standards set by the National Fire Protection and Center for Public Safety for Response times and call handling.

There are 5 Standards to the 911 call that RFD tracks



#### Call

This is the incoming call made to our 911 Center by the community— The goal is to answer 90% of all calls within 10 Seconds. In 2020— 90% of all calls were answered within 21 Seconds.

#### Dispatch

The dispatch time is used to help understand alarm handling. Alarm handling is the time between when the call was created and when a station was dispatched for the incident or call. The National Standard for this is 1 minute, while CPSE is 1:30

#### Turnout

#### Time

The turn out time is the time from when the Unit was Dispatched to the Time the unit is in gear, in vehicle and enroute to the scene. The NFPA Standard is 1:20 and the CPSE Standard is 1:30

#### Travel

#### Time

The travel time is calculated by the difference between the turnout time and the arrival time of the first unit at the incident. The standard time from NFPA is 04:00 and the CPSE standard is 05:12.

#### Response Time

5

The response time is the total time from the Creation of the Incident at the 911 office to the time the Crews arrive on scene. The NFPA Standard states that 90% of calls should fall under 06:20 or under the CPSE standard of 08:12.

# FIRE

RESPONSE TIMES

**ALARM HANDLING** 

01:57

**TURNOUT TIME** 

2:28

TRAVEL TIME

05:37

TRAVEL TIME

08:26

**EMS** 

RESPONSE TIMES

**ALARM HANDLING** 

2:39

**TURNOUT TIME** 

2:39

TRAVEL TIME

07:13

TRAVEL TIME

10:38

#### Administration Division

### Major Accomplishments

- Developed Comprehensive Budget for 2021
- Began new NFIRS Reporting System in November of 2020 moving from an outdated system to an improved cloud based service.
- The department spent many hours preparing data for our Migration of both Historical NFIRS and Properties and Inspections— allowing for more advanced analysis in the new Software
- The Rockford Fire Department received 5 New Apparatus in 2020 to put into service
- The Rockford Fire Department received many donations in 2020 ranging from protective masks, food and meals in addition to a \$10,000 donation from Swedish American Hospital
- Hosted the Community Stakeholder Meeting in February
   2020 with our External Partners
- Rockford Fire Department was also part of the 39th Annual RAMM Scholar Banquet



# Operations Division







#### Hazardous Materials



Hazmat team members participated in a combination hazardous materials and confined space entry drill with the City of Rockford Water Department at a water treatment facility. The drill simulated a chlorine leak with a confined space rescue of a trapped Water Department employee.

Two members of the Hazmat Team attended the Emergency Response
Training Group's Risk-Based Response –
Chemical and Physical Properties of Hazardous Chemicals course.

Two members of the Hazmat Team attended the Emergency Response Training Group's *Risk-Based Response – Chemical and Physical Properties of Hazardous Chemicals* course.

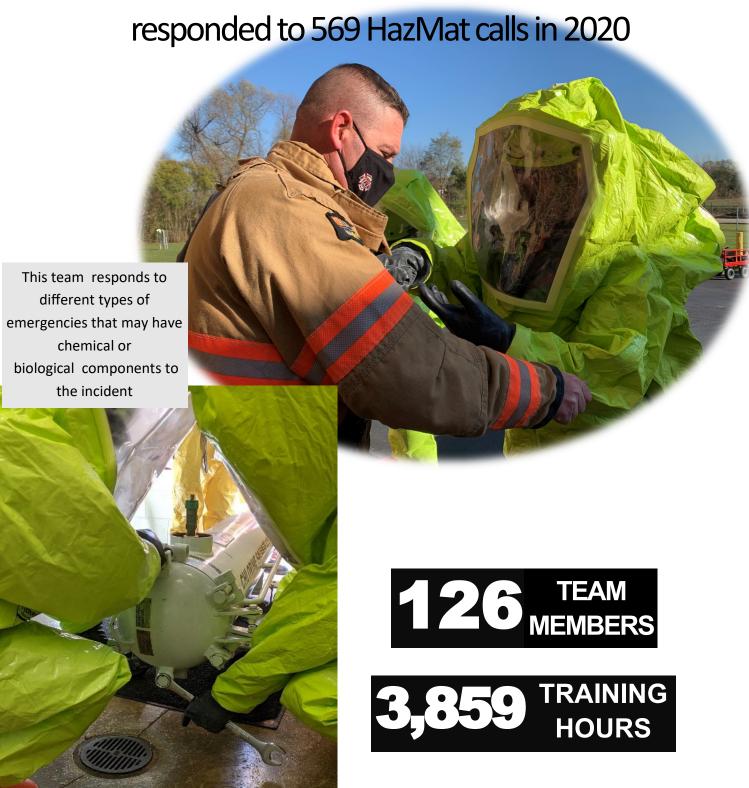
The Hazmat Team accepted a Hurricane Sprayer as a MABAS asset to support disinfecting operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two new members were added to the Statewide Deployable HazMat Training roster. This team stands ready to assist MABAS Divisions across the State.

The Department conducted HazMat training for the Department on the first and third Saturdays of each month.



# In 2020 The Hazardous Materials Response Team responded to 569 HazMat calls in 2020





- The Rockford Fire department saw an increase of Fires from 2019.
- The Department battled 534 fires, The breakdown includes:
  - 165 Structure Fires
  - 97 Cooking Fires
  - 95 Vehicle Fires
  - 39 Dumpster Fires
  - 138 Outside/
     Other Fires
- Rockford lost some
   memorable structures
   this year to large fires,
   including the Iconic
   Metro Church, that dated back to the 1860s
- Crews worked to save over 82% of properties from complete loss.



#### Dive Team

#### Major Accomplishments

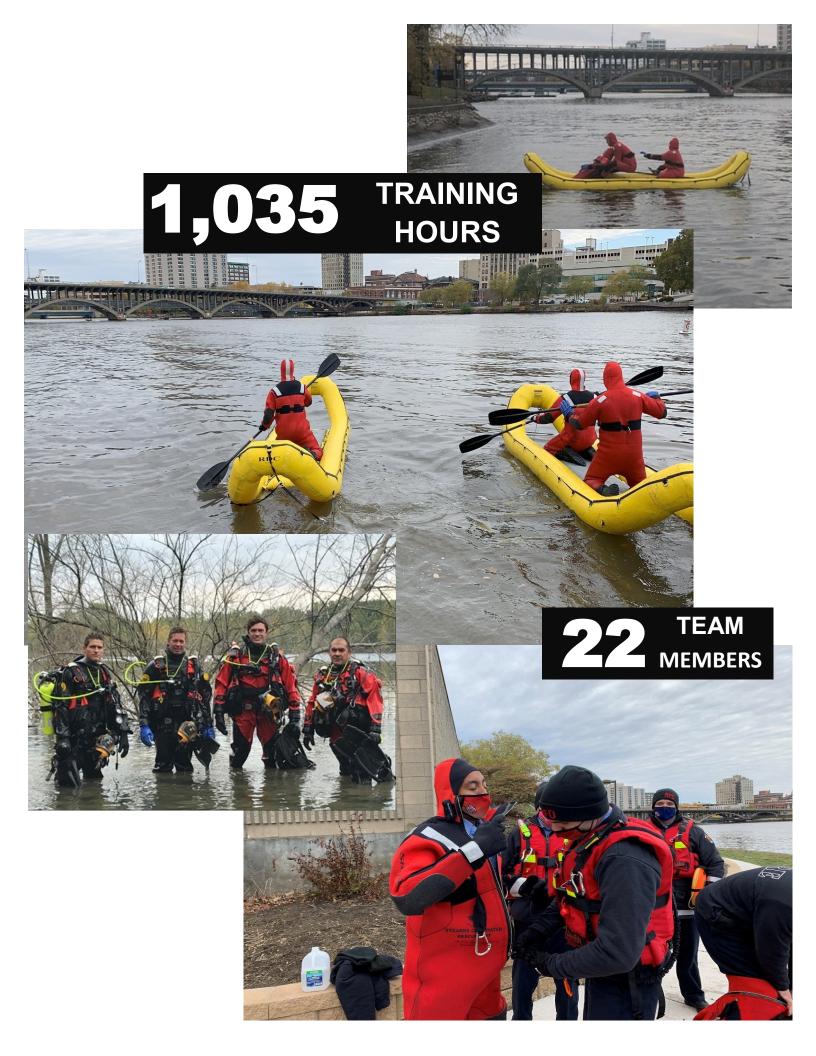
Members from the Rockford Fire Department Dive Team coordinated and conducted regular monthly trainings throughout the year, to include the following: divers in full face mask, dry suit, search and recovery, rescue, and boat operations.

Two of the Department's dive instructors maintained certifications through the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) and Emergency Response Diving International (ERD), while various Dive Team members completed the following training: Water Operations class, certifying ice dive at the Sandy Hollow Quarry, Surface Ice Rescue class, Sector Scan Sonar for the Department.

Dive team coordinators worked with members of the Administration to prepare specifications for a new dive vehicle, and facilitated the training of two new team members.

Dive team coordinators worked with members of the Administration to prepare specifications for a new dive vehicle, facilitated the training of two new team members, and coordinated annual dive gear servicing.

Members of the Dive Team provided sonar training with personnel from Stations 1 and 3 in a multi-company drill format.



## Training Division

#### Major Accomplishments

2020 was a busy year for the Training Division, with a total of two recruit classes graduating this year and 20 new Fire Fighters added to the Department- the department also delivered over 63,900 hours of training.

#### Partially Comprised of:

- 28,686 hours of Company Training
- 808 Hours of Facilities Training
- 14,147 Hours of EMS Training
- 2,430 Hours of Officer Training
- 3,859 Hours of HazMat Training
- 5,216 Hours of Driver Training
- 7,641 Hours of Technical Rescue Training
- 82 Hours of Drone Training
- 1,035 Hours of Dive Training

Personnel also received 74 new OSFM Certifications in 2020



# Emergency Management Major Accomplishments

Beginning March 12, 2020, the City of Rockford activated the Winnebago County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and began a unified response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the response, the Department coordinated with both public and private sector agencies to support the operations of the Winnebago County Health Department.

The EOC supported the local school districts with providing meals to school children during the stage four mitigation strategies, coordinated the local testing site efforts, assisted the local health systems with coordination between the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and established a robust logistics section support personal protective equipment acquisition and distribution for the entire county.

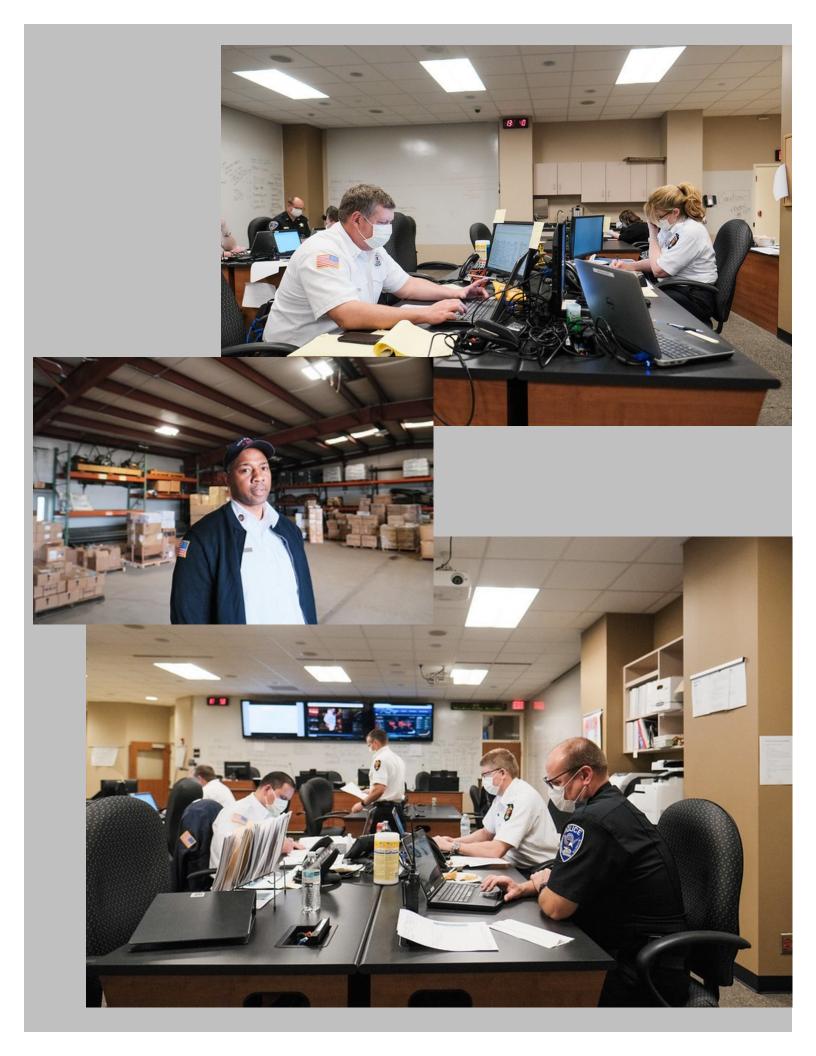
The EOC remained fully activated until June in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and then transitioned to a partial activation. In the fall of 2020 the EOC returned to full activation status as a virtual EOC, and then returned to in person staffing on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The City and County continue a coordinated effort to support the operations of the Winnebago County Health Department.

The Department coordinated efforts to support local law enforcement during the civil unrest throughout the summer. Fire Department staff assisted with the development of several incident action plans to preplan for several planned and unplanned protests throughout the jurisdiction.

On August 10, 2020 the Department partially activated the City EOC in response to a severe weather threat. A widespread series of storms with a history of damage moved across the Midwest. A derecho moved through Rockford producing a swath of damaging winds and two confirmed tornado touchdowns. The EOC coordinated City departments along with utility companies in response to damages caused by the storm.

The City of Rockford conducted a Comprehensive Threat and Hazard and Risk Assessment (THIRA) for the City of Rockford, completed its biennial Emergency Operations Plan review through the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and applied for re-accreditation as a Non-Mandated ESDA.

Although most classes and exercises were canceled or postponed, the Department was able to virtually attend various meetings which included: Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, IEMA Region 2, Northern Illinois Preparedness and Response Coalition (NIPARC), Local Emergency Planning Committee, and Illinois Terrorism Task Force.



#### EMS Division

#### Major Accomplishments

- In 2020, the Rockford Fire Department was again awarded with the American Heart Association and Lifeline EMS Gold Award On 10/1/2020 EMS teams evaluated and selected a new cardiac monitor/defibrillators for both ambulances and fire apparatus
  - Members ran extensive field trials of each FDA approved device
  - Selected Philips Tempus PRO system as successor to Philips MRX and FR3 devices currently used



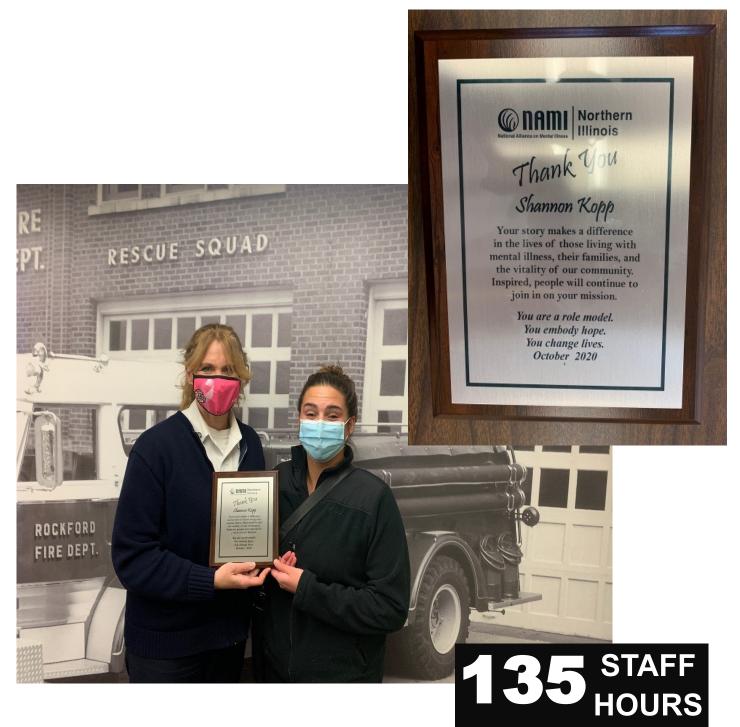
- In 2020- Six new paramedics were trained and licensed and added 2 new EMTs
- Swedish American Hospital became Rockford Fire Department's Resource Hospital in 2020
- 2020 saw an overall decrease in Mental Health admissions and Emergency Department Visits
- The Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program continued into 2020
- Rockford Fire Department was invited to participate in the ET3 Model program implementation—this program helps to allow greater flexibility in transports—specifically to alternative destinations such as Drug or Alcohol Rehabilitation Facilities.
- 2020 welcomed a New EMS Medical Director -Dr. Muhammad Shareef



#### Mobile Integrated Health

#### Major Accomplishments

- In 2020, MIH made over 189 visits to patients and supplied training for Naloxone to 57 people in our community
- After a 3 month trial, the Co-Responder Pilot Program was launched on Nov 1, 2020, where members of the community will work together in response to calls that involve a person with a behavioral health crisis
- In October 2020, Mobile Integrated Health Care Manager, Shannon Kopp received a Making A Difference Award for her commitment to her position and the community from the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Northern Illinois
- Number of Opioid Overdoses in the Rockford Area dropped significantly, however is still affecting the community throughout 2020



246 MIH PATIENTS

#### Fire Prevention

#### Major Accomplishments

- Before the end of the year, The Fire Prevention team made the full migration to our new software, ESO.
  - This more modern version grants users ability to fill out reports on the go, simplify data and allow for a more modern software
- The Fire Prevention Unit Hosted the First Burn within the new burn cell for the 2020 recruit class to demonstrate fire behavior and fire scene preservation.
- The Fire Prevention team Hosted a Youth Fire Setter Intervention class.
- Appointed 2 new Fire Inspectors in 2020
- Facilitated and assisted the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and EOC PPE Supply Distribution Center
- The Rockford Fire Prevention Bureau was also Awarded the FM Global grant for Investigator Training to help support Public Education in the Community
- The Discovery Center Children's museum also hosted a Discovery Town exhibit that featured a Fire Station all representative of Rockford Fire Department







- Over 225 homes were installed with new Smoke Detectors in 2020
- The Annual 911 Run was hosted, but due to COVID-19

   this was the first year it was held virtually

#### Public Education

10,847

Adults and Children were educated in the Rockford Area in 2020 in Fire Pre-



Back to School Back Pack Giveaway, a visit from Santa on a Fire Truck, and other Rockford Public School events

#### Recruitment



2020 brought a new Recruiter to the Rockford Fire Department.

Recruitment events included
Northern Illinois University, Rock
Valley Community College and
Rock River YMCA.



#### 2020 Retirees

#### AVERAGE YEARS OF SERVICE:

#### 28.5 Years







Mark Reeser
Driver Engineer
30 Years of Service



Ernest White
Lieutenant
27 Years of Service

Scott Prine 911 Shift Supervisor 28 Years of Service









David Spataro
Telecommunicator
33 Years of Service



Deb Ognibene
911 Division
32 Years of Service



Marc Wortman
District Chief
32 Years of
Service



Rodriquez George Captain 27 Years of Service







Ken Eitenmiller
District Chief
27 Years of Service



Personal Leigh Sterrenberg
911 Division
Administrator
26 Years of Service



James Graham Jr.

Captain

26 Years



Brad Walker
Captain
26 Years of Service



# 2020 Promotions

Name	Promotion/Appointment	Date
Russell, Elizabeth M	Appointed Business Manager	05/04/2020
Bauman, Michael D	Appointed Driver Engineer	03/28/2020
Brass, Thomas J	Appointed Driver Engineer	09/08/2020
Carlson, Ronald W	Appointed Driver Engineer	04/24/2020
Connors, Shawn M	Appointed Driver Engineer	11/06/2020
DeShazo, James D	Appointed Driver Engineer	04/16/2020
Dummer, Thomas H	Appointed Driver Engineer	02/14/2020
Esparza, Ryan M	Appointed Driver Engineer	07/24/2020
Finley, Jeffrey C	Appointed Driver Engineer	09/15/2020
Rotolo, Michael	<b>Appointed Fire Prevention Coordinator</b>	03/08/2020
Brown, Timothy M	Appointed Inspector	09/21/2020
Carden, Nathan	Appointed Inspector	08/24/2020
Mosny, Emil III K	Appointed MIH Manager	01/13/2020
Caveny, Neil	Appointed Shop Coordinator	01/04/2020
Collins, Brian	Promoted Assistant Shift Supervisor	06/13/2020
Althoff, Jeffrey K	Promoted Captain	04/24/2020
Cantu, James	Promoted Captain	09/18/2020
Gilbertson, Shawn P	Promoted Captain	03/28/2020
Graham Jr., James L	Promoted Captain	09/08/2020
Sobczyk, Edward	Promoted Captain	07/24/2020
Straley, John P	Promoted Captain	04/16/2020
Eitenmiller, Kenneth G	Promoted District Chief	04/16/2020
Nordenberg, David R	Promoted District Chief	07/24/2020
Beaman, Brett W	Promoted Lieutenant	03/28/2020
Brandli, Kurt E	Promoted Lieutenant	07/24/2020
Bucey, Robert M	Promoted Lieutenant	09/17/2020
Grady, Peter M	Promoted Lieutenant	04/16/2020
Hayes, Scott M	Promoted Lieutenant	09/08/2020
Linden, Jeffrey M	Promoted Lieutenant	03/06/2020
Morris, Timothy Jr.	Promoted Lieutenant	11/06/2020
Wentzel, David	Promoted Lieutenant	04/24/2020

## City of Rockford Fire Department 2020 Summary

#### Personnel

Fire Sworn	911 Staff	<b>Administrative Personnel</b>	Total	
270	48	8	326	

#### Budget

2018	2019	2020	
\$49,398,116	\$51,810,162	\$53,741,393	

#### Frontline Apparatus

Engines	Ladders	Ambulances	
9	4	8	

#### 2020 Apparatus Responses

Ambulance/I 2020 Respo		Engine 202 Responses				District Chief 202	0 Responses
MED03	4,512	RE01	2,689			RD01	692
MED05	3,231	RE02	3,505	Laddor 2020 Box	cnoncoc	RD02	652
MED06	3,641	RE03	1,779	Ladder 2020 Responses		ND02	032
MED07	3,174	RE04	2,425	RL01	1,462		
MED09	3,796	RE06	1,723	RL02	1,590		
MED10	4,278	RE07	2,466	RL05	3,206		
MED11	3,313	RE08	1,933	Reserve Ladder	5	Special 2020 R	esponses
MED14/	282	RE10	2,544	RL09	2,873	•	•
Reserve	202	RE11	2,833			HAZ	3
Rescue 1	1,407		,			TRT8	3
Rescue 2	1,431	Reserve Engine	15			DIVE	16

# ROCKFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT 2020 YEAR END

